

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A self propelled walk behind mower comprising:

5 a tractor unit having left and right drive wheels and a tail wheel pivotably mounted rearwardly of said drive wheels, said drive wheels being independently powered by left and right hand hydrostatic drive units, said tractor unit further having a forward end; and

10 a mower deck mounted to said forward end of said tractor unit wherein said mower deck is able to pivot up and down and tilt side to side relative to said tractor unit.

2. A control system for a self propelled walk behind mower comprising:

a switch disposed to be operated by said operator, said switch being connected to an actuator, a pair of adjustable stops moved in parallel by said actuator;

15 a left lever being operably connected to a left stop and further connected to a left hydrostatic drive unit, said left lever being disposed to be operated by an operator's left hand, said left hydrostatic drive having a forward speed being limited by the obstruction of said left stop against said adjustable stop, said left lever adapted to bias said left stop against said adjustable stop and further being adapted to slow said left hydrostatic drive by the actuation of

20 a right lever being operably connected to a right stop and further connected to a right hydrostatic drive unit, said right lever being disposed to be operated by an operator's right hand, said right hydrostatic drive having a forward speed being limited by the obstruction of said right stop against said adjustable stop, said right lever adapted to bias said right stop against said adjustable stop and further being adapted to slow said left hydrostatic drive by the actuation of said left lever by said operator.

3. A method of controlling a self propelled walk behind mower comprising:

activating a rocker switch to move an actuator, said actuator being connected to adjustable stops, said adjustable stops disposed to simultaneously move a left stop and a right stop such that a left hydrostatic drive and a right hydrostatic drive connected to a left drive wheel and a right drive wheel are simultaneously activated to move said mower in a forward direction;

activating a left lever that is operably connected to said left hydrostatic drive and further limited in travel by said adjustable stops, said activating of said left lever causing said left hydrostatic drive to slow down, causing said mower to turn to the left; and

activating a right lever that is operably connected to said right hydrostatic drive and further limited in travel by said adjustable stops, said activating of said right lever causing said right hydrostatic drive to slow down, causing said mower to turn to the right.